

RFD #1
Ellsworth, Me. 04605
Dec. 3, 1976

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

If you recall, I said I would send clippings concerning the JFK assassination as they appeared in the papers. Enclosed please find 9 pages of copied clippings from the local papers. I am also enclosing a copy of a recent letter to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, and a pamphlet I had made up for the talk with the League of Women Voters in July of this year.

I have written to Cohen and Muskie enclosing copies of that letter. When Senator Muskie was here for a bean supper last summer I brought up a question (in the question and answer session) about why the gov't. had done nothing to find the truth since it was common knowledge that the Warren Commission had collapsed as far as its conclusions went. He mentioned the Senate Committee and pretty much said he believed in the Warren Report although there were questions. After that supper, I gave him a reading list and stressed the importance of the issue. He said he'd try to get, to at least one book. I later wrote to him and asked if he had done any reading of the material. He responded to the letter, but not to that particular question. So, not to be brushed off, I stopped in to his office in Bangor and told the secretary that I wanted an answer to my inquiry. She said she was sure he knew of all the evidence (last June or July he said he was not too familiar with it) and she would forward my question to him. Lo and behold, a few days later, his assistant or secretary called from Washington and spent almost $\frac{1}{2}$ hour on the phone with me - and it's after the election! She said he was in favor of an investigation (big step forward, if true), and she seemed to know something of the case. She said the POST carried stories every day or so on the progress of the HSC on A and that there seemed to be much interest in D.C. I asked if the House would utilize the critics' research and information they had amassed and she was sure they would. Naturally, I told her about the work you had done and how close you were to D.C. Has anybody asked you for any help on this? If you say they haven't, I will find it impossible to believe that they are in any way serious about finding out anything. From the few items I have seen, they are chasing red herrings (conveniently left by the CIA???) about WHY Oswald did it and who he worked for rather than reviewing the primary evidence to see IF Oswald did it. Have you offered help on these matters? How do you feel about this investigation? Does it have a chance of finding out some of the truth? Will they call witnesses "overlooked" by the WC?

Called Drs. Carrico and Perry and got contradicting stories from them. I wonder if they can remember what ACTUALLY happened as opposed to what was supposed to have happened. They kept referring to the autopsy report instead of to what they saw. Would love to know what those 30 SS interviews were about!

I have written to Hathaway, Cohen, and Muskie. I asked for an appointment to see Cohen last July and when I stopped in at his office, I was told I might be able to see him in late Jan. or Feb. - possibly. I did have quite a lengthy chat with his representative. He deals with priorities and this issue doesn't seem to be one. However, he was somewhat receptive.

Mr. Weisberg, what I am about to say may be misinterpreted. I sincerely hope that you will take it as intended, in a spirit of friendliness. If I am wrong about my "gut feeling", I apologize beforehand. I know you are an extremely busy man and you have done a tremendous amount of research and work on this subject. Fortunately and unfortunately the people who are willing to do this kind of work usually have large egos. When I talked with you on the phone, I got the distinct impression that you were bored by my questions and by what I was trying to do. I am unable to do what you are doing though I applaud it greatly and support it by buying your books and by urging others to do so in order that they may learn the facts. I am not in a position to do more than I am, and, indeed, not many others would have done as much as I in similar circumstances. I could have been offended and turned off, but when a person knows so much about a particular subject, I can readily understand that he can become bored by the same questions that he hears day after day and can show that boredom. Only trouble is that the other person has indicated a desire to learn and has to start somewhere. Your research has been invaluable and even though it probably is boring to you because you've gone so far beyond the ordinary person in this issue, your help is necessary. Others have taken from you without giving credit, but what is the purpose of your work? Knowledge has increased in various ways. You complained somewhat bitterly about some others' work. Maybe some are charlatans - I don't know. I do know that there are some genuinely interested in the answers who may work to the same ends you say you believe in, but by using different means. You may not think they are important, but every piece of information gleaned makes the puzzle a little clearer. I hope that you will have patience with those who don't know what you do, but who at least want to know more. And also with those who try in their own ways to find out more of the truth.

Have been waiting to see the Committee subpoena Marina, or ask for the CIA files, or the "vaulted" information. Don't know how far they can go without all the stuff that the WC never saw. This is the first investigation into this, and I guess I'm hoping too much maybe. Maybe they are just a heck of a lot slower than I would be in getting to the meat. In any case, I hope that you will be of service to them - If the mountain won't come to Mohammed, then I trust Mohammed will go to the mountain. There's too much at stake not to.

Have seen nothing on the MLK case or Ray.

If you have any books come out on the JFK material, please send it and I'll pay you or at least let me know it's there and I'll pay you first. Have Whitewash I, II, III, IV, and Post Mortem already. All encouragement to you to keep up the great work you've been doing. Perhaps in just a short while we'll see the results of all that effort - if the HSCoA does its job properly.

Sincerely,
Theresa Bennett